

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for uploading frame data to system memory, the system comprising:  
a CPU coupled to the system memory and configured to execute an application program; and  
hardware configured to process frames to produce frame data and upload the frame data to a portion of system memory allocated to the application program.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the frame data is payload data.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein a TCP Stack provides the hardware with a physical address corresponding to a user buffer.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the hardware is configured to process frames to produce partially processed frame data and upload at least a portion of the partially processed frame data to a legacy buffer.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the legacy buffer is stored in a portion of system memory allocated to a software driver.
6. The system of claim 2, wherein the hardware is configured to upload at least a portion of the payload data to a legacy buffer.
7. The system of claim 6, wherein the legacy buffer is stored in a portion of system memory allocated to a software driver.
8. The system of claim 6, wherein a software driver provides the hardware with a tag corresponding to a location of the legacy buffer.
9. The system of claim 7, wherein the hardware is configured to transmit the tag to the software driver.

10. A method of uploading frame data to system memory, the method comprising:
  - processing a frame to produce frame data; and
  - uploading the frame data to a portion of system memory allocated to an application program.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the frame data is payload data.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein a TCP Stack provides a physical address corresponding to a location in system memory.
13. The method of claim 10, wherein the portion of system memory is a user buffer.
14. The method of claim 10, further comprising processing a frame to produce partially processed frame data.
15. The method of claim 14, further comprising uploading the partially processed frame data to a portion of system memory allocated to a software driver.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the portion of system memory is a legacy buffer.
17. A method of uploading frame data to system memory, the method comprising:
  - processing a frame to produce payload data;
  - uploading the frame data to a portion of system memory allocated to a software driver; and
  - transmitting a tag to the software driver.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the portion of system memory is a legacy buffer.
19. The method of claim 18, wherein the tag corresponds to a location of the legacy buffer in system memory.
20. The method of claim 17, wherein the tag is assigned to a legacy buffer by the software driver.